Weill Music Institute
National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America
2013
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In summer 2013, Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute (WMI) brought together 120 of the country’s brightest young musicians, ages 16–19, hailing from 42 US states, for the inaugural season of the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America (NYO-USA). The launch of the orchestra was inspired by Carnegie Hall Executive and Artistic Director Clive Gillinson’s own experience as a teenager with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, and the goal of creating this top-level ensemble was enthusiastically shared by the WMI staff and extended Carnegie Hall family.

NYO-USA’s first year surpassed everyone’s dreams and expectations. The idea was to create an orchestra that would shine a spotlight on the great depth of talent found across the nation as well as the outstanding youth orchestras and music programs that are responsible for training these musicians. NYO-USA provides an opportunity for talented young instrumentalists to learn and perform at the highest level, while also enabling them to serve as cultural ambassadors for their country, making meaningful connections with people around the world.

The 2013 members of NYO-USA were selected through a comprehensive online audition process that attracted nearly 1,000 applicants from all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The annual program is free for all participants, making it accessible to all.

Carnegie Hall publicly announced the orchestra’s roster in March 2013 to journalists across the country, and the news generated excitement and media coverage for these young musicians in their local communities. In late June, the players finally arrived on the campus of Purchase College, SUNY, to start their rigorous training residency. Over the course of two weeks, the musicians took part in intensive coachings and sectionals with principal players from America’s leading orchestras, workshops on a range of musical and cultural topics, and full orchestra rehearsals under the direction of James Ross, director of orchestral activities at the University of Maryland, who expertly prepped them for the arrival of internationally renowned conductor Valery Gergiev.

Under the baton of Maestro Gergiev, NYO-USA embarked on its inaugural concert tour in July, performing for sold-out audiences at the Performing Arts Center (Purchase College, SUNY), the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, DC), the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory (Moscow, Russia), Mariinsky II (St. Petersburg, Russia), and Royal Albert Hall (London, United Kingdom). The concert repertoire included Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 10, Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto with guest soloist Joshua Bell, and the world premiere of Magiya (Russian for “magic”), a work by Sean Shepherd co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall for NYO-USA’s debut tour. Music from Gershwin’s Porgy and Bess served as the ensemble’s encore and quickly became a crowd favorite. From the very first rehearsal to the last notes played on tour, the engaged, high-quality music making of the first-ever NYO-USA was an inspiration to all.

Critics were unanimous in their praise of NYO-USA, and traditional and social media extended the reach of the orchestra worldwide. The Moscow Conservatory concert was recorded for broadcast nationwide in Russia by TV Kultura, and the Royal Albert Hall concert, part of the BBC Proms, was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and recorded for television broadcast on BBC Four. In New York, WQXR broadcast NYO-USA’s BBC Proms concert on July 27, bringing it to New York–area radio audiences and online listeners worldwide at wqxr.org.

While the sound of the music from these memorable concerts may have faded, the impact of the first year of NYO-USA is very much alive, reflected in the experiences gained and deep friendships made by members of the new orchestra. In 2014, NYO-USA comes together for its second season, traveling the United States on an exciting coast-to-coast tour in programs led by David Robertson and featuring violin soloist Gil Shaham, including the orchestra’s much-anticipated Carnegie Hall debut.
Valery Gergiev, Conductor

A prominent figure in all the world’s major concert halls, Valery Gergiev is the artistic and general director of the Mariinsky Theatre, founder and artistic director of the Stars of the White Nights Festival and New Horizons Festival in St. Petersburg, the Moscow Easter Festival, the Gergiev Rotterdam Festival, the Mikkeli International Festival, and the Red Sea Festival in Eilat, Israel, as well as principal conductor of the World Orchestra for Peace.

Now celebrating both his 60th birthday and 25 years with the Mariinsky Theatre, Mr. Gergiev has taken Mariinsky ballet, opera, and orchestra ensembles to more than 45 countries, garnering universal acclaim. The Mariinsky Concert Hall opened in 2006 and the new Mariinsky II opera house opened in May 2013, alongside the historical Mariinsky Theatre.

Principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra since 2007, Mr. Gergiev performs with the LSO at the Barbican, the BBC Proms, and the Edinburgh Festival, as well as on extensive tours of Europe, North America, and Asia. In 2016, he assumes the post of principal conductor of the Münchner Philharmoniker.

Mr. Gergiev’s record releases with the Mariinsky Orchestra and London Symphony Orchestra continually win prizes in Europe, Asia, and America. Mr. Gergiev’s many honors include the Dmitri Shostakovich Award, Netherlands’ Knight of the Order of the Dutch Lion, Japan’s Order of the Rising Sun, and the French Ordre national de la Légion d’honneur.

“One of the spectacular things about Maestro Gergiev is that he is always finding a way to mentor us anew after each concert. We are learning to take each concert in stride, to keep walking with each performance, and to find something new to make the next performance even better.”

—Annika Jenkins, violin, writing for Symphony magazine

Mr. Gergiev's cowboy hat was a thank-you gift from Carnegie Hall.

“It is essential that any major country in the music world invest great effort in such programs. For me, it’s an honor, a source of creative joy, and a great responsibility to work with the best young musicians in America.”

—Valery Gergiev to NEWSr.com

What I am doing here is more important than certain things we do with professional orchestras because here you’re investing in the musical future. It’s more impactful—and honestly more needed.”

—Valery Gergiev to the Los Angeles Times
Joshua Bell, Violin

Joshua Bell’s stunning virtuosity, beautiful tone, and charismatic stage presence have brought him universal acclaim. An Avery Fisher Prize recipient, Mr. Bell recently received the New York Chapter Recording Academy Honors and was the first person appointed music director of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields (ASMF) since Sir Neville Marriner formed the orchestra in 1958. The ensemble’s first CD under Mr. Bell’s leadership—Beethoven’s Symphony No. 4 and Symphony No. 7—debuted at the top of the Billboard classical chart.

Mr. Bell’s 2007 incognito Washington, DC, subway station performance resulted in a provocative Pulitzer Prize–winning Washington Post story that examined art and context. The conversation continues with the new illustrated children’s book The Man with the Violin.

As a soloist, chamber musician, and conductor, Mr. Bell has recorded more than 40 CDs garnering Grammy, Mercury, Gramophone, and Echo Klassik awards. Recent releases include works of French Impressionism with pianist Jeremy Denk, At Home with Friends, Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons, and Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto with the Berliner Philharmoniker. His discography encompasses the major violin repertoire, in addition to John Corigliano’s Oscar-winning soundtrack to The Red Violin.

Born in Bloomington, Indiana, Mr. Bell received his first violin at age four and at 12 began studying with Josef Gingold at Indiana University. Two years later, Mr. Bell came to national attention through performances with Riccardo Muti and The Philadelphia Orchestra, and at age 17, he made his Carnegie Hall debut. Bell plays the 1713 Huberman Stradivarius.

Sean Shepherd, Composer

Sean Shepherd has quickly gained admiration and repeat performances with major ensembles and performers across the US and Europe. In recent years, his work has been performed by the National, BBC, and New World symphony orchestras, at festivals in Aldeburgh, Heidelberg, La Jolla, Lucerne, Tanglewood, and Santa Fe, and by leading European ensembles including Berlin’s Scharoun Ensemble, Amsterdam’s Asko/Schönberg, and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.

Shepherd maintains a busy schedule as an emerging voice in the American orchestral world. He continues as the Daniel R. Lewis Composer Fellow of The Cleveland Orchestra, for whom he composed a new work that Franz Welser-Möst and the ensemble premiered in April 2013. In March 2013, the St. Luke’s Chamber Ensemble premiered a new quintet at several New York venues. He will also compose a work for the New York Philharmonic, to be performed in 2013–2014, in response to being named the Kravis Emerging Composer. Alan Gilbert previously led the premiere of These Particular Circumstances, commissioned by the New York Philharmonic for the inaugural season of CONTACT! in 2010.

Shepherd’s education includes degrees in composition and bassoon performance from Indiana University, a master’s degree from The Juilliard School, and doctoral work at Cornell University with Roberto Sierra and Steven Stucky.
Carnegie Hall gratefully salutes the major supporters of NYO-USA who help make this program possible, and Ronald O. Perelman, Chairman of the NYO-USA Advisory Board of Directors, for his leadership.

NYO-USA Advisory Board
Ronald O. Perelman, Chairman
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The Rockefeller Foundation
The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation
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Public support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.
June 30–July 11, 2013
Purchase College, SUNY
Purchase, New York

The musicians came together for the first time on June 30, 2013. Before embarking on tour, they lived and worked together at Purchase College, SUNY, for two weeks.

There were 63.5 hours of rehearsal or 7,620 collective hours of rehearsal... and only one fire alarm disruption.

Carnegie Hall may have created the best music camp ever.” —NPR

Training Residency

Sam Sparrow
If you heard our first rehearsal, you wouldn’t believe it was our first time playing together. So excited for the next month! #NYOUSA

1. Orchestra Director James Ross rehearses Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 10.
2. Angelique Montes and Tim Joo arrive at Purchase College, SUNY with resident assistant Melissa Williams.
3. From left to right: oboists Ryan Roberts, Gabe Young and Mark Debski in rehearsal.
Faculty

Orchestra Director James Ross led full orchestra rehearsals in preparation for Valery Gergiev’s arrival, and an all-star faculty of principal players from major American orchestras also coached the musicians.

James Ross, Orchestra Director

Robert Chen, Concertmaster, Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Alison Harney, Principal Second Violin, St. Louis Symphony

Carrie Dennis, Principal Viola, Los Angeles Philharmonic

John Sharp, Principal Cello, Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Jeffrey Turner, Principal Bass, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

Jeffrey Khaner, Principal Flute, The Philadelphia Orchestra

Elaine Douvas, Principal Oboe, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Ricardo Morales, Principal Clarinet, The Philadelphia Orchestra

William Short, Principal Bassoon, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

William VerMeulen, Principal Horn, Houston Symphony

David Krauss, Principal Trumpet, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

R. Douglas Wright, Principal Trombone, Minnesota Orchestra

Alan Baer, Principal Tuba, New York Philharmonic

Cynthia Yeh, Principal Percussion, Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Jauvon Gilliam, Principal Timpani, National Symphony Orchestra

“Sitting next to Robert Chen taught me that a leader is someone who is able to make others feel confident enough to dare, to try.” —Julia Popham, violin, writing for Symphony magazine
Beyond Rehearsal

The musicians rounded out their experience with workshops designed to promote healthy habits and open their eyes to new aspects of musicianship.

I’d say that’s what I’ve been most amazed by: not just the baseline level of playing, but the leaps and bounds everyone is ready and willing to take to bring ourselves together as an orchestra.” —Leah Meyer, horn

Workshop and Seminar Leaders

David Wallace, Musical Overview of Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich
Aliza Stewart, Introduction to the Feldenkrais Method
James Ross, Conducting
Sean Shepherd, Composition
Nicole Newman, Yoga for Musicians
Members of Decoda, Engaging Audiences
Jeffery Zeigler, Improvisation
Catharine Nepomnyashchy, Cultural History of Moscow and St. Petersburg
New York City | July 7, 2013

Mid-way through the training residency, the orchestra took a day trip to New York City. After a morning of sightseeing, NYO-USA members attended a concert by the New York Philharmonic, followed by a private Q&A session with Philharmonic musicians. They closed the day with dinner and dancing on a Circle Line tour of Manhattan.
A New Look

In concert, NYO-USA sported a youthful, fun, and elegant new look.

The musicians’ uniforms required 423.5 hours of measurements and alterations to the wardrobe during the two-week residency.

The new look was styled by Fred Bernstein, courtesy of Macy’s.
Inaugural Tour

Concert 1 | July 11, 2013
The Performing Arts Center | Concert Hall
Purchase College, SUNY

“I think we truly became the National Youth Orchestra tonight.”
—Micheal Barnes, percussion, to NPR

“The performance exuded vitality and confidence.”
—The New York Times

1: Valery Gergiev leads NYO-USA in its debut performance.
2: Wind and percussion players perform Sean Shepherd’s Magiya.
3: Marianne Martinoli warms up backstage.
Washington, DC | July 12–14, 2013

In Washington, the first stop on tour, the musicians received a briefing on cultural diplomacy from the US Department of State and visited the National Mall.
Russian Embassy

The Russian ambassador to the United States, Sergei Kislyak, invited NYO-USA to the Russian Embassy, along with other guests, to celebrate the orchestra’s tour. NYO-USA musicians performed a selection of chamber music, and Ambassador Kislyak, Clive Gillinson, and Valery Gergiev spoke about the significance of NYO-USA.

“Between NYO’s debut on Thursday and performing for Maestro Gergiev and Ambassador Kislyak at the Embassy this evening, this week has been full of some of the most memorable and important musical experiences of my life.”
—Giancarlo Latta, violin
The highlight of the evening came in the second half of the concert as Valery Gergiev led the National Youth Orchestra in a simply outstanding and shockingly well-interpreted performance of the Shostakovich Symphony No. 10 in E Minor, Op.93.” —DCMetroTheaterArts.com
Travel
Moving 150 people and their luggage, instruments, and equipment around the globe is no easy task.

Coordinating travel for musicians and staff took 10 trips to the Russian Consulate to iron out the details of the international tour.

The tour included 40 hours on planes, trains, and buses, as well as 14 pieces of lost luggage along the way.

A media team came along for the ride, capturing 20,135 photos, 18,170 media files, and 1,839,517,884,416 bytes of audio-visual data (1.67 terabytes!).
Moscow | July 15–17, 2013

After a 24 hour journey, the orchestra arrived in Moscow at dusk. Before some much-needed rest, the musicians explored nearby Red Square. During its time in Moscow, NYO-USA was also treated to a tour of the Kremlin.

“...It was remarkable to think of all the history in this square-mileage of Moscow, to remind myself of everything that had occurred there.”
—Giancarlo Latta, violin
Having spent a day in Russia, this piece gained another dimension in my mind, as I pondered the people I had observed and the juxtaposition of old and new at every corner of the city. Soaking in the atmosphere changed my perspective and my performance in an unidentifiable way.

—Nina Morales, violin
St. Petersburg | July 17–19, 2013
NYO-USA visited St. Petersburg during the “white nights,” when the city receives nearly 24 hours of sunlight each day. The musicians made the most of the churches, cathedrals, canals, and museums in this historic city.

Before the tour, there were 16 NYO-USA musicians who had never traveled outside the US. Now, they can check Russia and England off their lists!

16 NYO-USA musicians who had never traveled outside the US.

Now, they can check Russia and England off their lists!
NYO-USA participated in a side-by-side open rehearsal with Capella Taurida, an orchestra for young musicians in St. Petersburg. The ensembles joined forces to play Tchaikovsky’s *Romeo and Juliet.*
Instead of standing, Russian audiences clap ... in rhythm. They all begin clapping on beat and the whole concert hall claps together. It is so cool. And so exciting and energetic.” —Nikki LaBonte, horn

Before the music even begins, all of us, dressed in our crisp black, white, and red outfits, can feel a unique and precious unity that has risen as a result of all the time we had spent together: eating meals, experiencing new sights, and most importantly, pouring our sweat and energy into rehearsing music we love.” —Audrey Chen, cello
London | July 20–23, 2013

1. Nathan Kirchhoff and Jennifer Chiang walk toward the Tower Bridge.
2. A ceremonial guard of the Tower of London leads musicians on a tour.
3. NYO-USA witnessed the changing of the guard at the Tower of London.
1. The woodwind section rehearses for the Proms at Royal Albert Hall.
2. NYO-USA’s percussion section (from left to right): Jon Collazo, Eric Goldberg, David Yoon, Michael Barnes, and Karl Ronneburg
3. NYO-USA cellists arrive for the BBC Proms dress rehearsal.

“The Proms is just the apex of everything. All of our hard work, dedication, and determination have been leading up to this one big concert.”
—Ryan Roberts, oboe
They told me, ‘Your concert better be good, mate; we’ve been waiting here to buy our tickets since five in the morning.’ Our concert didn’t start until 7:30 that night.” —Tom Jeon, clarinet, writing for Symphony

The whole ensemble played with electric commitment.”
—The Guardian
Closing Party

The tour came to a close with a celebration at the London offices of Bloomberg, NYO-USA’s lead sponsor.
Musicians
Violin

Zeynep Alpan, 18
Hometown: Bethesda, Maryland
School: Homeschooled
Youth Orchestra: Juilliard Pre-College Orchestra and Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra (Philharmonic)
Eric Bowser, 18
Hometown: Center Point, Texas
School: Our Lady of the Hills Regional Catholic High School
Youth Orchestra: Hill Country Youth Orchestra
Andrew Burgan, 16
Hometown: Auburn, Colorado
School: Instituto de Rennes, Paris
Youth Orchestra: Symphonic Orchestra of the Paris Conservatory
Enchi Chang, 18
Hometown: Belmont, Massachusetts
School: Belmont High School
Youth Orchestra: Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra

Jessie Chen, 18
Hometown: Palos Verdes, California
School: Princeton University

Andrey Cheshire, 16
Hometown: Merritt Island, Florida
School: Merritt Island High School
Youth Orchestra: Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra

Annabel Chyung, 16
Hometown: Miami, Florida
School: Ransom Everglades Upper School
Youth Orchestra: Greater Miami Youth Symphony

Alexandria Conrad, 18
Instrument: Violin
Hometown: Willow Street, Pennsylvania
School: Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School
Youth Orchestra: Trowbridge Chamber Orchestra

Guillermo del Prado, 17
Hometown: Hattiesburg, Mississippi
School: Oak Grove High School
Youth Orchestra: Austro Orchestra, South Mississippi Youth Orchestra

Alkay Dinakar, 16
Hometown: Kansas City, Kansas
School: Shawnee Mission East High School

Demi Fang, 17
Hometown: Dayton, Ohio
School: Centerville High School
Youth Orchestra: Centerville High School Chamber Orchestra and Starling Chamber Orchestra

Jason Herrmann, 16
Hometown: Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
School: Harriton High School
Youth Orchestra: Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, Trowbridge Chamber Orchestra of the Settlement Music School, Delaware County Youth Orchestra

Beatrice Hsieh, 17
Hometown: North Wales, Pennsylvania
School: Penn-Tech High School
Youth Orchestra: Temple Music Prep Youth Chamber Orchestra

Russell Iceberg, 18
Hometown: New Market, Maryland
School: Homeschooled
Youth Orchestra: Academy of Saint Cecilia Youth Orchestra, American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, Maryland Talent Education Center String Orchestra

Angelika Jenkins, 18
Hometown: Virginia Beach, Virginia
School: Laurel Springs Gifted and Talented Academy
Youth Orchestra: Juilliard Pre-College Orchestra, Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia Symphony, World Youth Alliance Chamber Orchestra, Hampton Roads Chamber Players Sinfonietta

Ha Kyung Jung, 17
Hometown: Irvine, California
School:Arnold O. Beckman High School
Youth Orchestra: Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra

Jennifer Kim, 18
Hometown: Rochester, Minnesota
School: Rochester Century High School
Youth Orchestra: Southeast Minnesota Youth Orchestra

Julia Kirk, 16
Hometown: Jackson, Mississippi
School: St. Andrew’s Episcopal School
Youth Orchestra: Belhaven Chamber Orchestra Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra

Giancarlo Latta, 17
Hometown: Ann Arbor, Michigan
School: Pioneer High School
Youth Orchestra: Academy Chamber Orchestra at the Music Institute of Chicago

Kevin Li, 18
Hometown: Bettendorf, Iowa
School: Pleasant Valley High School
Youth Orchestra: Quad City Youth Symphony

Joseph Lorang, 17
Hometown: Seattle, Washington
School: Lakeside School
Youth Orchestra: Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra

Marianne Martinoi, 16
Hometown: Monroe, Washington
School: Homeschooled
Youth Orchestra: Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra, Academy Chamber Orchestra

Brendon Mezzetti, 18
Hometown: Eagle River, Alaska
School: Homeschooled, Frontier Charter School
Youth Orchestra: Anchorage Symphony Orchestra, Anchorage Civic Orchestra, Anchorage Youth Symphony, Anchorage Opera, Cyrano’s Theater Company, Alaska Theatre of Youth

Joseph Morag, 16
Hometown: New York, New York
School: LaGuardia High School for the Arts
Youth Orchestra: New York Youth Symphony

Nina Morales, 16
Hometown: Spring Hill, Florida
School: Frank W. Springstead High School
Youth Orchestra: Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, Encore Chamber Orchestra
Amy Semes, 18
Hometown: Broomall, Pennsylvania
School: Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School
Youth Orchestra: Tri-Co Youth Orchestra
Viola

Ray Anthony Trujillo, 17
Hometown: Elk Grove and Sacramento, California
School: Capital Christian High School
Youth Orchestra: Sacramento Youth Symphony

Jehong Ahn, 18
Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska
School: Westside High School
Youth Orchestra: Omaha Area Youth Orchestra’s Youth Symphony

Camille Glazer, 17
Hometown: Orlando, Florida
School: William P. Boone High School
Youth Orchestra: Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra

Soyeong Park, 20
Hometown: St. Cloud, Minnesota
School: Meadowbrook High School
Youth Orchestra: Minnesota Orchestra’s Youth Symphony

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Matthew Cloyd, Hunter Kolls, Eric Bowser, and Terrance Smith

Sebastian Cloyd, William Cloyd, and Mark Cloyd

Jessie Chen

NYO-USA violin section

Sooyeon Park, 16
Hometown: Princeton Junction, New Jersey
School: West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North
Youth Orchestra: Central Jersey Regional High School Orchestra

Benjamin Parton, 17
Hometown: Sevierville, Tennessee
School: Homeschooled, Gateway Christian School
Youth Orchestra: Knoxville Symphony Schools

Julia Popham, 17
Hometown: Golden, Colorado
School: Lakewood Sr. High School
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Marina Sander, 16
Hometown: Wyoming, Delaware
School: St. Thomas More Academy
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Kevin Lui, Dini Fang, Beth Chang, Kristen Fang, and Adisou C. Ching

Matthew Cloyd, Hunter Kolls, Eric Bowser, and Terrance Smith

Sebastian Cloyd, William Cloyd, and Mark Cloyd

Jessie Chen

NYO-USA violin section
Cello

Clara Abel, 17
Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana
School: Herron High School

Emily Camras, 18
Hometown: Batavia, Illinois
School: The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
Youth Orchestra: Midwest Young Artists' Symphony Orchestra

Audrey Abel, 17
Hometown: Redmond, Washington
School: Interlake High School
Youth Orchestra: Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra

Garrett Chen, 17
Hometown: Northbrook, Illinois
School: Glenbrook North High School
Youth Orchestra: Pace Youth Orchestra

Angela Holmes, 16
Hometown: Lee's Summit, Missouri
School: Homeschooled
Youth Orchestra: Kansas City Youth Symphony Orchestra

Kai Mathes, 17
Hometown: Albuquerque, New Mexico
School: Bosque School
Youth Orchestra: Albuquerque Youth Symphony

Angelique Montes, 17
Hometown: New Orleans, Louisiana
School: Benjamin Franklin High School
Youth Orchestra: New Orleans Youth Symphony

Jacob Murray, 17
Hometown: Lanesville, Indiana
School: Floyd Central High School
Youth Orchestra: Louisville Youth Orchestra and Floyd County Youth Symphony

Benjamin Nead, 17
Hometown: Tucson, Arizona
School: University High School
Youth Orchestra: Tucson Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and Tucson Junior Strings

Bass

Ahmer'e Blackman, 18
Hometown: Wilmerding, Pennsylvania
School: Pittsburgh School for the Creative and Performing Arts
Youth Orchestra: Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra

Matthew Burg, 18
Hometown: Wilmsport, Pennsylvania
School: Wilmsport Area High School

Andrew Downs, 16
Hometown: Irondele, Alabama
School: Alabama School of Fine Arts
Youth Orchestra: Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra

Santiago Olaguibel, 16
Hometown: Miami, Florida, and East Meadow, New York
School: Coral Reef Senior High School
Youth Orchestra: Miami String Project
Flute
Jennifer Chiang, 17
Hometown: Tempe, Arizona
Youth Orchestra: Phoenix Youth Symphony

Kristen Fang, 16
Hometown: Walnut Creek, California
Youth Orchestra: San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

Alexander Ishov, 18
Hometown: Gainesville, Florida
School: Interlochen Arts Academy
Youth Orchestra: Interlochen Academy Orchestra

Elizabeth Sperry, 16
Hometown: Chelmsford, Massachusetts
School: Chelmsford High School
Youth Orchestra: Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra

Annie Wu, 17
Hometown: Pleasanton, California
School: Footlight High School
Youth Orchestra: San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra

Oboe
Mark Debski, 18
Hometown: Bethel Park, Pennsylvania
School: Bethel Park High School
Youth Orchestra: Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra

Russell Hoffman, 17
Hometown: Mountain Lakes, New Jersey
School: Mountain Lakes High School
Youth Orchestra: Juilliard Pre-College Orchestra

Mitchell Kuhn, 19
Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida
School: Douglas Anderson School of the Arts
Youth Orchestra: Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra

Ryan Roberts, 16
Hometown: Santa Monica, California
School: Santa Monica High School
Youth Orchestra: Colburn Youth Orchestra

Gabriel Young, 17
Hometown: Ashland, Oregon
School: Ashland High School
Youth Orchestra: Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon

Clarinet
Madison Freed, 18
Hometown: Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts
School: Suffolk University
Youth Orchestra: Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra

Tom Jeon, 19
Hometown: Lexington, Massachusetts
School: Lexington High School
Youth Orchestra: Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra

Ryan Roberts, 16
Hometown: Plano, Texas
School: Jasper High School
Youth Orchestra: Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra

Samuel Sparrow, 18
Hometown: Durham, North Carolina
School: North Raleigh Christian Academy
Youth Orchestra: Triangle Youth Philharmonic

Christopher Zhou, 16
Hometown: Prospect, Kentucky
School: duPont Manual High School
Youth Orchestra: Louisville Youth Orchestra

Bassoon
Jordan Brokken, 18
Hometown: Houston, Texas
School: Westfield High School
Youth Orchestra: Houston Youth Symphony

Jarrett Grempel, 17
Hometown: Wantagh, New York
School: Professional Children’s School
Youth Orchestra: Juilliard Pre-College Orchestra

Nathan Kirchhoff, 17
Hometown: San Gabriel, California
School: Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
Youth Orchestra: American Youth Symphony

Horn
Michelle Hembree, 16
Hometown: Boise, Idaho
School: Boise High School
Youth Orchestra: Boise Philharmonic Youth Orchestra

Nikolette LaBonte, 18
Hometown: Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
School: A. W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts
Youth Orchestra: Palm Beach Gardens Concert Band

Weston McCall, 17
Hometown: San Antonio, Texas
School: John Marshall High School
Youth Orchestra: Youth Orchestras of San Antonio

Leah Meyer, 17
Hometown: Belmont, Massachusetts
School: Belmont High School
Youth Orchestra: Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra

Blair Shepperd, 17
Hometown: Portland, Oregon
School: Grant High School
Youth Orchestra: Portland Youth Philharmonic

Leah Meyer, 17
Hometown: Belmont, Massachusetts
School: Belmont High School
Youth Orchestra: Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra
Ages and affiliations as of June 2013

Markus Osterlund, 18
Hometown: Honolulu, Hawaii
School: Interlochen Academy of the Arts
Youth Orchestra: Interlochen Academy Orchestra

Caelan Stewart, 16
Hometown: Clarkston, Michigan
School: Interlochen Arts Academy
Youth Orchestra: Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Civic Youth Orchestra and Wind Symphony

Elias Brown, 18
Hometown: Santa Monica, California
School: Santa Monica High School
Youth Orchestra: American Youth Symphony

Matthew Gajda, 16
Hometown: Mahwah, New Jersey
School: Bergen County Academies
Youth Orchestra: Juilliard Pre-College Symphony

Skye Dearborn, 17
Hometown: Sioux Falls, South Dakota
School: Lincoln High School
Youth Orchestra: South Dakota Symphony Orchestra

Jacob Mazera, 18
Hometown: Tinley Park, Illinois
School: Tinley Park High School
Youth Orchestra: Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra

Lincoln Valdez, 17
Hometown: Austin, Texas
School: Westlake High School
Youth Orchestra: Westlake High School Orchestra

Bass Trombone

Tanner Jackson, 17
Hometown: Tinley Park, Illinois
School: Tinley Park High School
Youth Orchestra: Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra

Brian Wendel, 18
Hometown: Conway, Massachusetts
School: Four Rivers Charter Public School
Youth Orchestra: New England Conservatory Preparatory School Youth Philharmonic Orchestra

Michelle Barnes, 19
Hometown: Lawton, Oklahoma
School: Oklahoma State University
Youth Orchestra: Oklahoma State University Orchestra

Tuba

John Paul Powers, 17
Hometown: Clinton, Tennessee
School: Clinton High School
Youth Orchestra: Knoxville Symphony Orchestra

Trombone

Skye Dearborn, 17
Hometown: Sioux Falls, South Dakota
School: Lincoln High School
Youth Orchestra: South Dakota Symphony Orchestra

Jacob Mazera, 18
Hometown: Tinley Park, Illinois
School: Tinley Park High School
Youth Orchestra: Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra

Henry Whitaker, 17
Hometown: Millersville, Maryland
School: Old Mill High School
Youth Orchestra: American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, Peabody Youth Symphony Orchestra, Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra, and London Symphony Orchestra

Trombone

Skye Dearborn, 17
Hometown: Sioux Falls, South Dakota
School: Lincoln High School
Youth Orchestra: South Dakota Symphony Orchestra

Jacob Mazera, 18
Hometown: Tinley Park, Illinois
School: Tinley Park High School
Youth Orchestra: Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra

Brian Wendel, 18
Hometown: Conway, Massachusetts
School: Four Rivers Charter Public School
Youth Orchestra: New England Conservatory Preparatory School Youth Philharmonic Orchestra

Timpani and Percussion

Micheal Barnes, 19
Hometown: Lawton, Oklahoma
School: Oklahoma State University
Youth Orchestra: Oklahoma State University Orchestra

Jonathan Collazo, 18
Hometown: Kissimmee, Florida
School: Osceola County School for the Arts
Youth Orchestra: Osceola County School for the Arts

Eric Goldberg, 18
Hometown: Chicago, Illinois
School: Whitney M. Young Magnet High School
Youth Orchestra: The Percussion Scholarship Group

Micheal Barnes, 19
Hometown: Lawton, Oklahoma
School: Oklahoma State University
Youth Orchestra: Oklahoma State University Orchestra

Timpani and Percussion

Micheal Barnes, 19
Hometown: Lawton, Oklahoma
School: Oklahoma State University
Youth Orchestra: Oklahoma State University Orchestra

Jonathan Collazo, 18
Hometown: Kissimmee, Florida
School: Osceola County School for the Arts
Youth Orchestra: Osceola County School for the Arts

Eric Goldberg, 18
Hometown: Chicago, Illinois
School: Whitney M. Young Magnet High School
Youth Orchestra: The Percussion Scholarship Group
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Public support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.
The members of NYO have become so much more than colleagues, or even friends: They have become my family and my home.”
—Julia Popham, violin, writing for *Symphony* magazine